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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

JOHN DAZA,

Plaintiff,

-against-

PILE FOUNDATION CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC., ANTHONY RIVARA

CONTRACTING, LLC, URS CORPORATION, :

URS CORPORATION-NEW YORK,

THE CITY OF NEW YORK, THE NEW YORK

CITY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND

RECREATION, THE NEW YORK CITY

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

CAPITAL PROJECTS DIVISION, THE

NEW YORK CITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION and the Barge "UNCLE LEO," :

its equipment, tackle and appurtenances, in rem,

Defendants.

AUS 1 2010
U.S.D.C. S.D. N.Y.
PLAINTIFF DEMANDS A
TRIAL BY JURY

SEAMAN'S CASE UNDER THE JONES ACT FOR PERSONAL

INJURIES

AMENDED COMPLAINT

10 Civ. 4678 (MGC) (GWG)

SUIT UNDER SPECIAL RULE FOR SEAMEN TO SUE WITHOUT SECURITY OR PREPAYMENT OF FEES FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES, COMMON AND STATUTORY FOR THE PROTECTION OF AND FOR THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF SEAMEN AT SEA

Plaintiff, JOHN DAZA, by his attorneys, FRIEDMAN, JAMES & BUCHSBAUM

LLP, for his amended complaint, respectfully alleges upon information and belief as follows:

Jurisdiction and Venue:

- 1. This Court has jurisdiction pursuant to the Jones Act, 46 U.S.C. §§ 30104 et seq. (formerly codified at 46 U.S.C. § 688).
- 2. Alternatively, this Court has jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332 in that the claims asserted herein are between citizens of different states and the amount in controversy, exclusive of interest and costs, exceeds the sum or value of \$75,000.
- 3. The barge "Uncle Leo" presently is, or during the pendency of this action will be, within the Federal Judicial District in which this action has been commenced.
- 4. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to: the Jones Act, 46 U.S.C. § 30104, as incorporating 45 U.S.C. § 56, in that the cause of action arose in this District; and defendants are doing business within this District; and/or 28 U.S.C. § 1391 in that a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred within this District.

Parties:

- 5. At all relevant times, plaintiff JOHN DAZA was and still is a citizen of the State of New Jersey.
- 6. At all relevant times, defendant PILE FOUNDATION CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC. was and still is a corporation organized and existing pursuant to the laws of the State of New York transacting business within the State of New York.
- 7. At all relevant times, defendant ANTHONY RIVARA CONTRACTING, LLC was and still is a corporation organized and existing pursuant to the laws of the State of New York transacting business within the State of New York.

- 8. At all relevant times, defendant URS CORPORATION was and still is a corporation organized and existing pursuant to the laws of the State of Nevada authorized to transact business within the State of New York with a designated agent for the service of process within the State of New York.
- 9. At all relevant times, defendant URS CORPORATION-NEW YORK was and still is a corporation organized and existing pursuant to the laws of the State of New York transacting business within the State of New York.
- 10. At all relevant times, defendant the CITY OF NEW YORK (the "CITY") was and still is a municipal corporation organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of New York.
- 11. At all relevant times, defendants THE NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION and THE NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION CAPITAL PROJECTS DIVISION (collectively "DPR") were departments of the City organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of New York.
- 12. At all relevant times, defendant THE NEW YORK CITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION ("EDC") was and still is a non-profit development corporation organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of New York.

AS AND FOR A FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

- 13. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation contained in paragraphs 1 through 12 with the same force and effect as if set forth at length herein.
- 14. At all times and dates hereinafter mentioned, defendants PILE FOUNDATION CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC. and/or ANTHONY RIVARA

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CONTRACTING, LLC, or either of them, owned the barge "Uncle Leo," its equipment and appurtenances.

- 15. At all times and dates hereinafter mentioned, defendants PILE FOUNDATION CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC. and/or ANTHONY RIVARA CONTRACTING, LLC, or either of them, operated the barge "Uncle Leo."
- 16. At all times and dates hereinafter mentioned, defendants PILE FOUNDATION CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC. and/or ANTHONY RIVARA CONTRACTING, LLC, or either of them, managed the barge "Uncle Leo," its equipment and appurtenances.
- 17. At all times and dates hereinafter mentioned, defendants PILE FOUNDATION CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC. and/or ANTHONY RIVARA CONTRACTING, LLC, or either of them, controlled the barge "Uncle Leo," its equipment and appurtenances
- 18. At all times and dates hereinafter mentioned, the barge "Uncle Leo" was and still is a watercraft used, or capable of being used, as a means of transportation on water.
- 19. At all times and dates hereinafter mentioned, the plaintiff was a seaman and member of the crew of the barge "Uncle Leo" and an employee and/or borrowed servant of defendants PILE FOUNDATION CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC. and/or ANTHONY RIVARA CONTRACTING, LLC.
- 20. At all times and dates hereinafter mentioned, and prior thereto, the plaintiff was a seaman and member of the crew of the barge "Uncle Leo."

- 21. At all times and dates hereinafter mentioned, and prior thereto, the plaintiff was a seaman and member of the crew of other barges/vessels under common ownership, operation and/or control of defendants PILE FOUNDATION CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC. and/or ANTHONY RIVARA CONTRACTING, LLC.
- 22. That on or about May 20, 2010, without any fault on the part of the plaintiff, and wholly and solely by reason of the negligence, recklessness and carelessness of defendants PILE FOUNDATION CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC. and/or ANTHONY RIVARA CONTRACTING, LLC, or either of them, and its/their agents, servants and/or employees, and by reason of the unseaworthiness of the barge "Uncle Leo," its equipment and appurtenances, the plaintiff was caused to sustain severe injuries.
- 23. As a result of the foregoing, the plaintiff was rendered sick, sore, lame and disabled and sustained severe and permanent personal injuries, was and is internally and externally disabled causing him to suffer pain, and for a time he was prevented from attending to his daily labors, thereby losing sums of money which he otherwise would have earned as wages, and has endeavored to be cured of his injuries, and has expended sums of money to maintain himself, and will continue to endure pain and suffering, all to his damage.

AS AND FOR A SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

- 24. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation contained in paragraphs 1 through 18 inclusive as if set forth fully at length herein.
- 25. At all times material hereto, plaintiff was engaged in performing services within the purview of the Longshore and Harbor Worker's Compensation Act, 33 U.S.C. § 901 et seq.

- 26. On or about May 20, 2010, plaintiff was caused to sustain severe and permanent personal injuries.
- 27. Said injuries were caused by the negligence of the defendants PILE FOUNDATION CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC. and/or ANTHONY RIVARA CONTRACTING, LLC, or either of them, in its/their ownership, possession, management, operation and control of the barge "Uncle Leo," its equipment and/or appurtenances, and by otherwise breaching the obligations of 33 U.S.C. § 905(b) and its implementing regulations.
- 28. As a result of the foregoing, the plaintiff was rendered sick, sore, lame and disabled and sustained severe and permanent personal injuries, was and is internally and externally disabled causing him to suffer pain, and for a time he was prevented from attending to his daily labors, thereby losing sums of money which he otherwise would have earned as wages, and has endeavored to be cured of his injuries, and has expended sums of money to maintain himself, and will continue to endure pain and suffering, all to his damage.

AS AND FOR A THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

- 29. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation contained in paragraphs 1 through 18 inclusive as if set forth fully at length herein.
- 30. On or about May 20, 2010, while lawfully on board the barge "Uncle Leo," plaintiff was caused to be seriously injured as a result of the negligence and lack of reasonable care of the defendants, PILE FOUNDATION CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC. and/or ANTHONY RIVARA CONTRACTING, LLC, or either of them, in breach of the duty established in Kermarec v. Compagnie Generale Transatlantique, 358 U.S. 625 (1958) and its progeny.

31. As a result of the foregoing, the plaintiff was rendered sick, sore, lame and disabled and sustained severe permanent personal injuries, was and is internally and externally disabled causing him to suffer pain, and for a time he was prevented from attending to his daily labors, thereby losing sums of money which he otherwise would have earned as wages, and has endeavored to be cured of his injuries, and has expended sums of money to maintain himself, and will continue to endure pain and suffering, all to his damage.

AS AND FOR A FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

- 32. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation contained in paragraphs 1 through 23 with the same force and effect as if set forth at length herein.
- 33. Plaintiff is entitled to maintenance, cure, and medical expenses from defendants PILE FOUNDATION CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC. and/or ANTHONY RIVARA CONTRACTING, LLC, or either of them, for the period that he was disabled and unable to work.

AS AND FOR A FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

- 34. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation contained in paragraphs 1 through 12 inclusive as if set forth fully at length herein.
- 35. At all times herein mentioned and prior thereto, defendants URS CORPORATION and/or URS CORPORATION-NEW YORK (collectively "URS") were hired and/or retained to perform construction work, labor and/or services in connection with the East River Waterfront Esplanade Project and/or the John V. Lindsay East River Park Promenade Project (collectively the "Project").

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- 36. Defendant URS was hired and/or retained to act as the general contractor and/or construction manager for the Project.
- 37. On or about May 20, 2010, while plaintiff was performing services in connection with the Project, he was caused to be seriously injured as a result of the negligence of the URS defendants.
- 38. Said accident and injuries to plaintiff were caused by the negligence of the URS defendants in causing, permitting and/or allowing dangerous and/or defective condition(s) to arise, be, and/or remain despite prior notice of said dangerous and/or defective condition(s); in failing to remove, correct, and/or repair said defective and/or dangerous condition(s); in failing to adequately and/or properly inspect said area so as to render it safe for workers such as plaintiff; in causing and/or creating said defective conditions as aforesaid; in failing to provide plaintiff a safe place to work; in failing to comply with and breaching the various provisions of New York Labor Law §§ 200, 240 and 241 and other federal, state and local statutes, ordinances and regulations; all without any fault of the plaintiff.
- 39. As a result of the foregoing, the plaintiff was rendered sick, sore, lame and disabled and sustained severe permanent personal injuries, was and is internally and externally disabled causing him to suffer pain, and for a time he was prevented from attending to his daily labors, thereby losing sums of money which he otherwise would have earned as wages, and has endeavored to be cured of his injuries, and has expended sums of money to maintain himself, and will continue to endure pain and suffering, all to his damage.
- 40. That this action falls within one or more of the exceptions set forth in CPLR § 1602.

AS AND FOR A SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION

- 41. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation contained in paragraphs 1 through 18 and 24-28 inclusive as if set forth at length herein.
- 42. Defendants PILE FOUNDATION CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC. and/or ANTHONY RIVARA CONTRACTING, LLC, or either of them, have failed to secure payment of compensation to plaintiff pursuant to the LHWCA.
- 43. Pursuant to the provisions of 33 U.S.C. § 905(a), plaintiff hereby makes direct claim against defendants PILE FOUNDATION CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC. and/or ANTHONY RIVARA CONTRACTING, LLC, or either of them, for all recoverable items of damage.
- 44. Pursuant to the provisions of 33 U.S.C. § 905(a), defendants PILE FOUNDATION CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC. and/or ANTHONY RIVARA CONTRACTING, LLC, or either of them, may not plead as a defense that the injury was caused by the negligence of a fellow servant, or that the employee assumed the risk of his employment, or that the injury was due to the contributory negligence of the employee.

AS AND FOR A SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

- 45. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation contained in paragraphs 1 through 12 and 34 through 39 inclusive as if set forth at length herein.
- 46. At all times herein mentioned and prior thereto, defendants the CITY, DPR and/or EDC owned, operated, controlled and or leased premises and/or land comprising, forming and/or consisting of the East River Waterfront Esplanade Project and/or the John V. Lindsay East River Park Promenade Project (collectively the "Project").

- 47. Upon information and belief, on and prior to May 20, 2010, defendants PILE FOUNDATION CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC. and/or ANTHONY RIVARA CONTRACTING, LLC entered into a contract with the CITY and/or DPR and/or EDC for the construction and improvement of certain properties owned, operated, controlled and/or leased by the CITY and/or DPR and/or EDC, including the Project.
- 48. On or about May 20, 2010, while plaintiff was performing services in connection with the Project, he was caused to be seriously injured as a result of the negligence of the CITY, DPR and/or EDC.
- 49. Said accident and injuries to plaintiff were caused by the negligence of the CITY, DPR and/or EDC in causing, permitting and/or allowing dangerous and/or defective condition(s) to arise, be, and/or remain despite prior notice of said dangerous and/or defective condition(s); in failing to remove, correct, and/or repair said defective and/or dangerous condition(s); in failing to adequately and/or properly inspect said area so as to render it safe for workers such as plaintiff; in causing and/or creating said defective conditions as aforesaid; in failing to provide plaintiff a safe place to work; in failing to provide plaintiff with proper scaffolding, hoists, stays, ladders, slings, hangers, blocks, pulleys, braces, irons, ropes and other devices so as to give proper protection to plaintiff; in failing to comply with and breaching the various provisions of New York Labor Law §§ 200, 240 and 241 and other federal, state and local statutes, ordinances and regulations; all without any fault of the plaintiff.
- 50. That heretofore on or about June 10, 2010, within ninety (90) days after the claim herein sued upon arose, plaintiffs caused a Notice of Claim in writing, sworn to by and on behalf of claimant, to be duly served upon the defendants, the CITY, DPR and EDC.

- 51. That at least thirty (30) days have elapsed since the service of said Notice of Claim, and that adjustment or payment thereof has been neglected or refused.
- 52. As a result of the foregoing, the plaintiff was rendered sick, sore, lame and disabled and sustained severe permanent personal injuries, was and is internally and externally disabled causing him to suffer pain, and for a time he was prevented from attending to his daily labors, thereby losing sums of money which he otherwise would have earned as wages, and has endeavored to be cured of his injuries, and has expended sums of money to maintain himself, and will continue to endure pain and suffering, all to his damage.
- 53. That this action falls within one or more of the exceptions set forth in CPLR \$1602.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff demands judgment: against defendants PILE FOUNDATION CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC. and/or ANTHONY RIVARA CONTRACTING, LLC in the First, Second and Third Causes of Action in the sum of TEN MILLION (\$10,000,000.00) DOLLARS; against defendants PILE FOUNDATION CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC. and/or ANTHONY RIVARA CONTRACTING, LLC in the Fourth Cause of Action in the sum of FIVE HUNDRED (\$500,000.00) DOLLARS; against defendants URS CORPORATION and/or URS CORPORATION-NEW YORK in the Fifth Cause of Action in the sum of TEN MILLION (\$10,000,000.00) DOLLARS; against defendants PILE FOUNDATION CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC. and/or ANTHONY RIVARA CONTRACTING, LLC in the Sixth Cause of action in the sum of TEN MILLION (\$10,000,000.00) DOLLARS; against defendants THE CITY OF NEW YORK, THE NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF

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PARKS AND RECREATION CAPITAL PROJECTS DIVISION and/or the NEW YORK CITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION in the Seventh Cause of Action in the sum of TEN MILLION (\$10,000,000.00); that process in due form of law, *in rem*, pursuant to Rules C and E of the Supplemental Rules for Certain Admiralty and Maritime Claims, according to the practice of this Honorable Court, issue against the barge "Uncle Leo," its equipment, tackle and appurtenances; and that all persons claiming any interest therein may be required to appear and answer on oath all and singular the matters aforesaid; that the barge "Uncle Leo," its equipment, tackle and appurtenances be condemned and sold to satisfy the damages of plaintiff; together with the costs and disbursements of this action.

Dated: New York, New York August 10, 2010

FRIEDMAN, JAMES & BUCHSBAUM LLP

Attorneys for Plaintiff

By:

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